

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ANKARA 03304 021018Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-07 TRSE-00  
/059 W

-----021020Z 091697 /21

O R 020942Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7354  
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMCONSUL ADANA  
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL  
AMCONSUL IZMIR  
USMISSION NATO  
EUCOM

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 3304

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, TU  
SUBJECT: MAY DAY TRAGEDY IN ISTANBUL

1. THE MAJOR TRAGEDY THAT OCCURRED IN ISTANBUL AT THE END OF THE MAY DAY DEMONSTRATION (DETAILS BEING REPORTED BY CONGEN ISTANBUL) RAISED AGAIN THE POSSIBILITY THAT RISING VIOLENCE COULD TRIGGER THE IMPOSITION OF MARTIAL LAW. THE INITIAL PUBLIC REACTION APPEARS TO BE ONE OF SHOCK. THE FACT THAT THE VIOLENCE PITTED ONE LEFTIST GROUP AGAINST ANOTHER, WITH NO APPARENT RIGHTIST INVOLVEMENT, SHOULD MAKE THE GOVERNMENT LESS VULNERABLE TO THE USUAL ACCUSATIONS OF COMPLICITY; HOWEVER, LEFTIST NEWSPAPERS ARE ALREADY CHARGING THAT THE ATTACK WAS PLOTTED BY FORCES OUTSIDE THE LEFT.

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2. AS WE HAVE REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, THERE ARE TWO VERY WORRISOME FEVERS RUNNING IN THE TURKISH BODY POLITIC WHICH ARE UNRELATED IN THEIR ORIGINS TO SUCH EXTERNAL ISSUES AS US/TURKISH OR GREEK/TURKISH RELATIONS. THESE ARE A RAPIDLY DETERIORATING ECONOMIC SITUATION AND CONTINUED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. IN ANKARA THE CONVENTIONAL WISDOM UP TO NOW HAS BEEN THAT NOTHING CAN OR WILL BE DONE

TO RESOLVE THESE PROBLEMS PRIOR TO THE JUNE 5 ELECTIONS; BUT  
THE MAY DAY EVENTS ADD DRAMATICALLY TO THE EVIDENCE THAT  
THE SITUATION IS UNSTABLE AND A BREAK-DOWN COULD OCCUR  
IN EITHER ONE OF THESE STRAINED SITUATIONS AT ANY TIME.  
MACOMBER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 02-May-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977ANKARA03304  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770153-0055  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Reference:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MAY DAY TRAGEDY IN ISTANBUL  
**TAGS:** PINT, TU  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
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